

## Recommendations for 2003-2005

1. Establish a public health financing system that provides stable and sufficient funding allocated consistently throughout the state.

All residents of Washington State need and expect a predictable level of public health services. Financing for the system must make effective use of state and local resources and must be allocated so that health protection is sustained in all communities.

2. Adopt a cost model for use throughout the state so that the cost of providing public health services is well documented and can be compared with local and state funding levels. Link costs with related activities for public health improvement, including workforce development and performance standards.

Cost-modeling work must continue so that the cost of public health protection is documented over time. Cost data are essential for accountability and to examine the effects of categorical grants on general public health programs. The cost model must be linked to *The Standards for Public*

*Health* to reveal areas of weakness that may need greater investment. Over time, the cost model must expand to account for the contributions of other public agencies and community organizations.

3. Implement and expand the concept of consolidated advisory committees to address funding allocations with the goal of simplifying the allocation process and increasing understanding and acceptance of the allocation methodology.

*The Standards for Public Health* provide a framework that can become a basis for organizing information on the use of public health funding statewide. Combining efforts of many independent advisory committees will create a fuller picture of current activities and spending. While balancing federal and state mandates, it may be possible to integrate funding allocations for greater benefit. In addition, review by broad-based committees will make funding decisions clearly visible to all parties.